

Mr Bissell

CONFIDENTIAL

PROPOSED U.S. REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE

The Department of State informs the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that the latter's note no. 23 of July 10, alleging violations of Soviet territory by United States Air Force bombers coming from Western Germany, has received the most serious consideration of the United States Government.

A thorough inquiry has been conducted and it has been determined that no United States military planes based, or flying, in or adjacent to the European area at the time of the alleged overflights could possibly have strayed so far from their known flight plans. Therefore the statement of the Government of the Soviet Union is rejected as untrue.

The Department of State at the same time is obliged to comment on the impropriety of the accompanying statements in the Soviet Embassy's note implying a plot to hinder the improvement of international relations and insinuating that the alleged American Air Force flights might have been arranged by General Twining in Germany, following his visit to the Soviet Union. These remarks, which are as obviously out of place as they are unwarranted, indeed of themselves have the effect of hindering the improvement of international relations.

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In rejecting the Soviet allegations the Department of State at the same time is obliged to commend on the impropriety of the accompanying statements in the Soviet Embassy's note implying a plot to hinder the improvement of international relations and insinuating that the alleged American Air Force flights might have been arranged by General Twining in Germany, following his visit to the Soviet Union. These remarks, which are as obviously out of place as they are unwarranted, indeed of themselves have the effect of hindering the improvement of international relations.

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